

G. P. Cochran

(Continued from page one.)

ed by various affidavits sworn to by persons acquainted with the facts, which letter and answer is as follows:

Fairmont, W. Va., October 4, 1915.
Mr. A. J. Knight,
Post Office Inspector,
Washington, D. C.

Sir: In reply to your letter of September 30th, 1915, wherein you have been pleased to file certain charges against me as set forth therein, and complying with the demand therein contained that I make reply to them within five days and show cause why I should not be removed from the service, I desire to reply and state as follows:

Replying to charge No. 1, to the effect that on May 8, 1908, I received assistance in passing the examination held under the Civil Service that day, being assisted by some person who supplied me with answers, I desire to say that I took the said examination honestly and fairly and passed the same on my merits, and did not receive any assistance from any person on any subject whatsoever, and was not supplied with answers to any question by any person, and I will reply to you to my affidavit which has been filed heretofore by Wilbur H. Brand in the matter of the charges filed by you against him in the affidavit filed September 27, 1915, also the affidavit of Harry E. Engle, the affidavit of James A. Cochran, the affidavit of A. L. B. Dudley, and the affidavit of Perry D. Burton, all of which relate and explain how said examination was held, and all have some bearing upon this charge against me. I deny said charge as it is utterly false and without foundation, and now say to you that the same can not be maintained or proven for the reason that they are utterly untrue and false.

In reply to charge No. 2, I desire to say to you that I never at any time told you that J. A. Cochran was not present when I took said examination. I told you all members of the board were present as I have told you in affidavit of September 27, 1915, that all the board appeared with the papers before the examination began, and after the examination was over the board departed with the papers in their possession. During the course of the examination I was busy answering the questions propounded, and did not sit and watch the board or any body else. I do not know what the board did during the examination, as I was busy at work on the examination. I know all were present when it began, and all were present when it closed, and I presume all were present during the whole time, as they were in charge. I never told you that J. A. Cochran was not present, and any person who says that I said J. A. Cochran was not present tells something that is not true, as I never made any such statement to you or any other person. James A. Cochran is my own brother, and I know that he was present that day, especially as I have stated before, when the examination began and when it closed. During the course of examination I was not talked to by any one and did not communicate with any person, and I certainly did not sit there and follow the movements of the examining board.

In answer to charge No. 3, I desire to say that this charge number three is utterly false, and that I did not make a false statement as you have alleged in charge number three, and my statement which you have quoted in charge number three was and is true. Replying to charge number 4, filed by you, I desire to say that in reply to questions contained in the application, I desire to inform you that I did attend the public schools of Fairmont for six years and neglected to state that I had attended the Fairmont State Normal School for four years. When I made my affidavit of September 27, 1915, I not only mentioned having attended the public schools of Fairmont for six years, but also set forth the fact that I had attended the Fairmont State Normal School for four years, which is true. My statement contained in affidavit and application does not conflict in any manner whatsoever, as both of them are true and neither of them are false. I did not make a false statement in either of them; they are both true, and the charge you make that I made a false statement in one or the other is certainly most trivial and undignified, and it becomes a man occupying a public important position which you seem to have secured.

In reply to charge No. 5, which you have been pleased to file against me wherein you charge me with having made a false affidavit, and proceed therein to quote my affidavit of September 27, 1915, I desire to say to you that my affidavit is true and correct in every particular. I did not therein go into full details, but the matters therein stated are true in every particular. I was requested by you when you came to my house to call and see you at the Kenyon Hotel and could not find you. I went back to my home while I was there again came to my house and you accompanied me to the hotel and went to the room where you introduced me to a man by the name of Hesse, and it was there I had the conversation with you as narrated in my said affidavit. It was very amusing to me to overhear whispering evidently intended for me to overhear between you and Mr. Hesse, in which you congratulated each other

that you "had me going," after which you promptly returned back to the bedroom and ostentatiously manner to lock the door. I could hardly conceal my laughter when attending such stage play which was done for the purpose of frightening and intimidating me, which did not accomplish your object, as I proceeded to tell the exact truth, and in response to intimidation and threats refused to admit a lie.

I told you the truth that night and again repeat it that any charge made by you or any other person to the contrary is utterly untrue. I want to distinctly inform you that I am a gentleman and am accustomed to dealing with gentlemen, and was very much surprised with the discourteous treatment at your hands, as heretofore all my dealings and acquaintance with government employees has led me to believe that all government employees were gentlemen. I therefore was very much shocked and surprised when I came to know you. I want to distinctly tell you that I am not a criminal and am not going to be treated as a criminal. Never before has anybody had the audacity to attempt to put me through what the police circles term the Third Degree, about which I had only read up until the time I had met you and Mr. Hesse. Since my meeting with you I have become personally acquainted with the workings of the Third Degree, which, judging from my own experiences I can say that it is utterly contemptible and unfair and beneath the dignity of the official representatives of this great government of ours. It may be hard on my wife and five children for me to lose the position I have been holding with the government for several years as a result of charges filed by you, but I want to say that if I am dismissed it will be because of false charges and false evidence.

You came to me utterly hostile with a biased mind, determined evidently to make me give you a statement which was false. In other words you were trying to induce me by threats or cajolery to make a false statement which would implicate other employees of the Fairmont post office. No man living can get me to commit perjury, and it would have been perjury if I had complied with what you wanted me to do. I insisted on telling the truth and still insist on telling you the truth, and you nor no other man can make me tell a lie. I do not know why you are pursuing me and have pursued me in the manner in which you have shown, only you know that and perhaps some other people.

Replying to charge No. 6, I desire to state and say that I never defied the authority of the inspector in any particular, and any charge that I ever did defy him was false. It is true that the inspector showed me his commission and asked me to read it. I took it to the electric light which was hanging from the cord in the center of the room, but the light was so poor I could not read the fine print on the card. I am obliged to use glasses constantly when reading under artificial light and did not have my glasses with me that night, and any charge that the inspector read the commission to me is false, for the reason that he did not read it to me. It is true that I was directed and told to take an examination on the morning, and I refused on the grounds set forth in my affidavit which is in your possession. It is true that I was forced to sign an affidavit setting forth that I refused to take the examination, but the affidavit was not changed to suit my wishes at all. It was prepared to suit your wishes. It is certainly not true that I was told by the inspector he was tired worrying with me and would wire the Department for my dismissal on the morning. What was told me was told by you, and was to the effect that you were going down to the office to have me dismissed in the morning. What power you have to dismiss people I do not know. Of course you knew what you were talking about when you made the threat, because you would not say anything that was not true, occupying the position which you do. It is most ridiculous for a post office inspector to go around over the country indulging in threats and giving a third degree to employees when you have no authority whatever to dismiss anybody. Your superiors only have the right to dismiss for proper cause, just as they will have the same right to dismiss you for proper cause.

I want to most distinctly inform you, Mr. Knight, that you can not bluff me. I will not be intimidated, as I have always told the truth and always intend to tell the truth, and will not permit you to induce me to commit perjury. And I will say to you that in view of what I have learned of your methods, that I will not subject myself to any further interview with you unless a responsible witness is present. I will not be misquoted, and will not permit you to misquote me.

I shall take great pleasure in retaining in my possession as a curiosity a letter written by a post office inspector wherein he shows his inability to read the English language, where he refers to affidavits supposed to have been taken before Allison O. Fleming, when anybody could easily distinguish the fact that they were taken before Allison S. Fleming, and your mind certainly must have been wandering in a most unmistakable manner. Mr. Knight, when you permitted yourself to write the charge that I took a certain examination on May 23, 1915. I deny that I ever took any examination on May 23, 1915, and defy you to show that I ever did. Perhaps you took an examination on May 23, 1915, or perhaps this was the day you received such orders as you received in my case. From the read-

ing of your charges I am forced to believe that you did not have six years common school education for the reason that the charges are certainly couched in very poor grammar in addition to the aberrations of memory therein displayed. Perhaps you have a copy of the said charges which you mailed me. If you have please read the same and enjoy a hearty laugh with me. You don't always have to pay out good money to buy comic papers.

In closing I desire to deny each and every charge you have made against me, and call upon you for specific and definite proof and substantiation of your most preposterous charges.

Respectfully,
City Letter Carrier No. 4, Fairmont,
W. Va.

From the above facts set forth, it is easy to infer that Mr. Knight was sent here for the purpose of getting George Cochran's scalp, and instead of taking George Cochran to the government building, where there is an office especially provided and equipped for the postoffice inspector's use, Mr. Knight took George P. Cochran, son of our late esteemed citizen, Nathaniel C. Cochran, Union veteran of the Civil war, to the Keayon hotel, to the upper floor thereof, where he, assisted by another government employee, proceeded in a most artistic and elaborate manner to attempt to put George Cochran through what is known in police circles as the third degree.

Chagrined at his failure to accomplish the purpose for which he had been sent from Washington, Mr. Knight added his own personal resentment and desire for revenge to the trumped up case against Mr. Cochran. And being in a position to gain petty revenge through his friends in Washington, Mr. Knight managed to obtain the dismissal of Mr. Cochran, notwithstanding the fact that a full report of the underhand tactics employed by Mr. Knight while in this city, making the investigation had been forwarded and received at Washington.

This is only one of thousands of the same cases which are occurring throughout our broad land since the Wilson administration came to power, and the civil service, heretofore considered to be a protection for public employees for public service, has been dragged down to the realm of petty politics in order that, as Mr. Bryan says, deserving Democrats may be rewarded. It is just as well that we all understand conditions, and that the Democratic administration is permitting no civil service rule or law to stand in its way in firing Republicans out of office to make way for Democrats. The one consolation that the public has is that it will not last long. It is highly fitting, however, to say that the son of one of our former honored citizens, a former mayor of this town, who several times was a member of our city council, highly honored and respected, and who served his country bravely and faithfully for four of the best years of his life, to see the son of this man besmirched, attacked and insulted is indeed a painful spectacle. George Cochran's life and antecedents will bear close scrutiny and inspection.

Plum Long Cultivated.
The plum is among the earliest known fruits. Thebes, Memphis and Damascus were noted in the early centuries for the great number of their plum trees. Plum trees grow wild in Asia, America and the south of Europe, and from these the large variety of domestic plums which we now enjoy have been cultivated.

Baseball 4,000 Years Old.
It is now believed that Egypt is the birthplace of the original ball game. How it was played history does not record. Recent excavations made near Cairo have brought to light a number of small balls, some of leather and others of wood, dating back to at least 2000 B. C. These are the oldest balls of this sort known.

Wanted Full Instructions.
"Nora," said the mistress to the new servant, "we always want our meals promptly on the hour." "Ym, mum. An' if I miss th' first hour shall I wait for th' next?"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Style Forecast.
Exclusive style forecast: There will be two kinds of styles for women this season, one for those who don't want to wear anything that will attract attention and another for those who won't wear anything else.—Milwaukee Journal.

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PLAYS :: VAUDEVILLE :: PICTURES

FROM THE WATERLOO, IOWA, EVENING COURIER AND REPORTER.

"Wherever there is a board of censors to pass upon moving picture plays, Theda Bara, the William Fox star, creates a great furor. The Ohio state board of censors passed an order barring her from acting in that state. This order was later rescinded, however. Her acting is tabooed in Atlanta, Ga., and several other staid, conservative southern cities. Great havoc is made of the plays in which she stars when one of them comes before the Chicago board of censors. Iowa is fortunate in having no board of censors and thus movie fans have an opportunity to pass judgment both upon Theda Bara and upon the censors who bar her acting.

Whenever Milla Bara is advertised to be shown in a local picture theatre, there is always a crowded house. This, we like to think, is not due to any morbidity on the part of our people, but to an appreciation of fine acting. Theda Bara is a supreme mistress of the art of portraying a sinister personality. She is an actress of remarkable charm, not unlike that of the characters she represents. She always plays the part of the vampire woman. She is the homebreaker. She is the heroine of an unlawful love, an intense, fervid, overwhelming passion that sweeps aside convention and that disregards every other human feeling

and every consequence to gain its own ends. Like the siren, Theda Bara lures her victim to his doom. She deliberately selects him, out of revenge, perhaps; it may be out of pure wickedness. Once in her grasp, he forgets, like the old Greek voyagers, wife, child, home everything but her and her charms. And, as in the old Greek dramas, the victim is carried swiftly,

surely, relentlessly, pitilessly to a tragic end. The avenging Nemesis never fails to overtake him. Herein, it appears to us, lies the justification for Theda Bara's acting. It has all the dramatic power of the old Greek tragedy. It impresses, more than all the sermons ever preached, upon the mind of the spectator, the swift and certain punishment that fol-

lows in the wake of the evil-deed. The acting of Theda Bara is preeminently moral. It is to be hoped that Iowa will never have a board of censors to deprive us of it."

Optimistic Thought.
Every man is arrogant or humble, according to his fortunes.

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